The Vizcacha lives in societies of twenty to thirty members,[1] in a " village " (" "Vizcachera "), a dozen or so of burrows, which intercommunicate. They lie at home during the day and come out in the evening. Their burrows, like those of the Prairie Marmot, harbour other creatures, which apparently live on amicable terms with the Vizcachas; such are the burrowing owl, a small swallow, and a *Geositta.* The Fox also afteets these burrows, but then he ejects the rightful owner of the particular burrow

Fro. 243.—Vizcacha, *Laffostowms trichodactyhts.* x *fa.*

which he selects. When the young Foxes are born the vixen hunts the Vizcachas for food. The Vizcacha has a most varied voice, producing " guttural, sighing, shrill, and deep tones," and Mr. Hudson doubts if there is " any other four-footed beast so loquacious or with a dialect so extensive/' These animals are very friendly, and pay visits from village to village; they will attempt to rescue their friends if attacked by a Weasel or a Peccary, and to disinter those covered up in their burrows by man.

Fam. 7. Oercolabidae.—A number of the characters which differentiate this family from the Hystricidae or Ground Porcupines of the Old World are given under the description of the latter. The principal external characters are the prehensile tail, the admixture of spines with hairs, and the nature of the sole of the foot. In these points the New-World Cercolabidae differ from the Old-World Hystricidae. It is interesting to notice that

[1] Hudson, " On the Habits of the Vizcacha," *Proc. Zool. Sac.* 1872, p. 822.